

VZCZCXRO1514
PP RUEHCI
DE RUEHKT #0653 2010839
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 200839Z JUL 09
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0508
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7046
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 7364
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2695
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 3138
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 4678
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
RUEAFCC/FCC WASHDC

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 000653

SIPDIS

EEB/CIP/BA: TIMOTHY C. FINTON; FCC: ROBERT TANNER;
DOC/ITA/OTEC: ANDREW BENNETT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ECPS NP

SUBJECT: NEPAL DRAFTS FIRST BROADBAND POLICY

REF: STATE 27310

(U) Amar Sthapit, Deputy Director of the Engineering Department at the Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA), recently told Emboff that the NTA has drafted the country's first broadband policy and it is currently under public review. Sthapit said that the policy calls for the Government of Nepal to establish at least one broadband service facility in each of the 75 district headquarters, but does not cover the outlying areas of the districts. Broadband service is currently limited to about a dozen urban areas served by private providers. Although there is no deadline for the closure of public comment, Sthapit said the NTA, which is under the Ministry of Information and Communications, expects to implement the policy this fiscal year, which began July 16. He promised to provide Post with a copy of the plan once public comments are incorporated.

MOON